Welfare of tribals in NER

875 SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked-out any National Action Plan or formulated any scheme for the welfare of tribal people in the country, particularly in the NER;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements several Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ Programmes for the welfare of tribal people in the country including the States HI the North Eastern Region. The schemes of the Ministry relate to income and employment generation, infrastructure development, educational development and improvement in literacy of all the tribal people. Some schemes pertain to insuring fair prices for minor forest produce besides the promotion of voluntary efforts in the area of tribal welfare. The details of schemes/ programmes of the Ministry of Tribal' Affairs, being implemented in the country, including the States in the North Eastern Region, are available in the Annual Report 2006-07 of the Ministry, copies of which are available in the Parliament library.

Inclusion of communities in ST list

876. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the processes of including new communities in the Scheduled Tribes' list;

(b) whether Government have taken a view on the demands of the Gujjar community, to be recognized as a Scheduled Tribe; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Government, on 15-6-99, has laid down the modalities for determining the claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes' lists. According to these modalities, only those proposals, which have been justified and recommended by the concerned State Government, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes are to be considered for amendment of legislation.

(b) and (c) The 'Gujjar' community has already been notified as Scheduled Tribe in the Scheduled Tribes list of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir States respectively. Regarding demands for inclusion of 'Gujjar' community as Scheduled Tribe in other States under Article 342 of the Constitution, no formal proposal from any State Government has been received by this Ministry so far.